



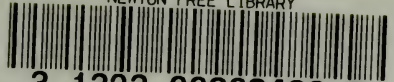
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NEWTON LOWER FALLS

NEWTON'S OLDER HOUSES



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NEWTON COLLECTION

PRE - 1855 NEWTON HOUSESREMAINING IN 1974

Publication #7 of
The Jackson Homestead
Newton, Massachusetts

Under the auspices of the
Historical Committee of
the "Friends of the
Jackson Homestead"

Cover

View of St. Mary's
Church, Concord St.
from across the
churchyard as it
appears today.

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NEWTON HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1855

F O R E W O R D

Scattered through the streets of Newton are a surprising number of houses which illustrate the architectural changes which have taken place in our community since the late 17th century. The first rectangular dwellings with central chimneys, two-chimney colonials, the stately, well proportioned houses of the Federal period -- all may be found standing and in reasonably good condition. Nearer 1855, the shut-off date for this listing, came the beginnings of Victorian ornamentation with the Gothic or Italianate influence, a number of houses of the Greek Revival style, and even a novelty with ten sides.

The architectural heritage of an area is one of its cultural resources and is of considerable significance and interest to its people. In order that the citizens of Newton may become more familiar with the older houses of this city and with the fascinating variety and individuality of home styles to be found here, this study was undertaken. It can be considered a worthy direction for the attention of the Jackson Homestead, Newton's unique historical museum.

Hopefully the listing will further a pride of ownership in houses of earlier periods, so that many of these will be appreciated and well-restored. Perhaps more people of Newton will come to realize that having an old house can be an asset to themselves and to the community. Often exceptionally well-built, many an early house can be preserved to benefit generations yet to come.

Perhaps you are wondering why 1855 was selected as the cut-off date of this study. At the Jackson Homestead is a map of Newton with a dot for each house standing in that year. In most sections the name of the owner at that time is also included. (Incidentally we believe this map to be amazingly accurate.) The first step was to determine how many of those houses are still standing, and then we proceeded from there. There were visits to City Hall and to the Registry of Deeds and countless telephone calls to present owners.

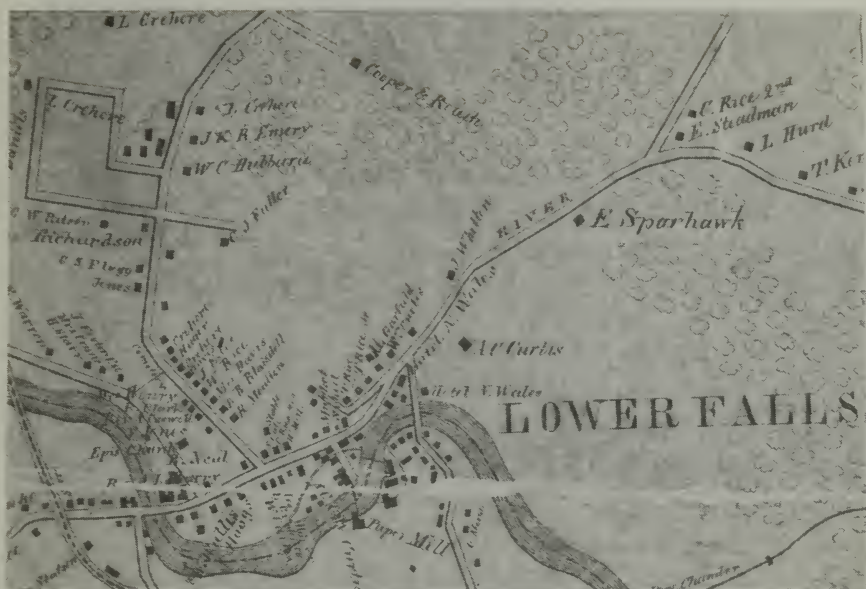
A previous publication, #2 of the Jackson Homestead series, was entitled "Some of the Older Houses in Newton." For this, extensive and meticulous research was carried out by Mr. Fred C. Alexander, first chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Homestead. A great many of the facts which he uncovered have been incorporated into this later edition. Much further material has been added by a team of dedicated volunteers, alias the "Newton Detectives," who spent endless hours in the process.

There is no claim to complete accuracy in this listing. Records are sparse and facts most difficult to come by. Surely there are omissions. It is hoped that those who discover errors or who can share additional information will contact the Jackson Homestead.

It is to be noted that the Jackson Homestead is the only house named which is open to the public.

Dorothy S. Bates, Chairman of Research

Ruth E. Cannard, Director-Curator



Lower Falls portion of the Map of Newton dated 1855 and used as a basis for this study of early Newton houses.

Other maps consulted for this work were those of 1700, 1831 and 1848.



While Newton Lower Falls of the past century is thought of essentially as a mill village, the pastoral quality of the nearby countryside where the mill workers walked, hunted and came to know nature is illustrated by this copy of a painting owned by the Vose Galleries, Inc.

It was painted for W. B. Hobart, Esq. in May, 1852 by his friend Samuel Adams Hudson of Worcester. It shows the view from Pigeon Hill, Auburndale (above Riverside) as one looked across the Charles River toward Newton Lower Falls in the distance and features the curve of the B. & W. Railroad. This view is now practically obliterated by the extensive interchange of Routes 128 and I-90.

NEWTON LOWER FALLS

INTRODUCTION

A series of three waterfalls where the Charles River skirts Newton Lower Falls was an important factor in the history of this unique section of the City of Newton. Way back in 1704 available water power resulted in the establishment of iron-works, forge and triphammer by Jonathan Willard. This was just the beginning of a long period of prosperous manufacturing with sawmills, gristmills, snuff mills, clothing mills and machine shops springing up along the banks of the river.

For many years the leading industry was the making of paper, and the old stone mill on Washington



Old Stone Mill, 2276 Washington Street

Street, built about 1790 by John Ware, was the first paper mill. In those early days methods were primitive and only a few hands employed. During the next fifty years the business was greatly extended under the management of Crehore, Curtises and Rices among others.

In King's "Handbook of Newton" we read that in the Curtis Mills was made a considerable portion of the book paper used in the United States. In the Rice Mills the paper for the "Boston Evening



Wiswall Mill or Foster Mill. Stood on the northerly side of Washington Street across from the Baury House. Sketch by William H. Hollis

Transcript" was made almost from the beginning so that "in this product alone the works have turned out paper enough to make a pathway more than a yard wide around the earth at the equator...leagues and leagues of virgin paper."

In addition to news and book paper the Curtis Mills made bank-note paper for the Dedham bank. At times the supply of rags for the mills fell short and had to be imported. On one occasion mummy wrappings arrived containing gold.



Footbridge - Lower Falls

A picturesque footbridge crossed the river to the Curtis Mills on the Wellesley side. This is in sad disrepair and not useable at present (1974). Perhaps it will be restored in the not too distant future.

Many Lower Falls men achieved national prominence in the paper industry and moved to other parts of the country where they shared their expertise with would-be manufacturers elsewhere. In 1822 seven young men from the area went to Canada to build that country's first paper mill.

With growing importance in the industrial world and with a main route to the West running through Newton Lower Falls, the village seemed an



Solomon Curtis 1765-1818
Founder of the Curtis Mills



First Post Office in Newton

appropriate location for Newton's first Post Office. The original building was attached to 2306 Washington Street, and Isaac Hagar Jr. is supposed to have made shoes in the little structure which was destroyed by the Redevelopment Authority in July, 1974. The building at one time stood on what is now the front lawn of the former St. Demetrious Church.

Judging from old records and from the character of the fine old homes still standing, life must have been good in Newton Lower Falls in the past century. Many substantial citizens lived comfortable lives here and brought up their large families of children to respect fine workmanship and to give their talents to their community and country. There were magistrates and teachers, Selectmen, members of the General Court, a representative to Congress, a Mayor of Boston and a Governor of the State. For relaxation these dedicated men loved to fish and hunt.

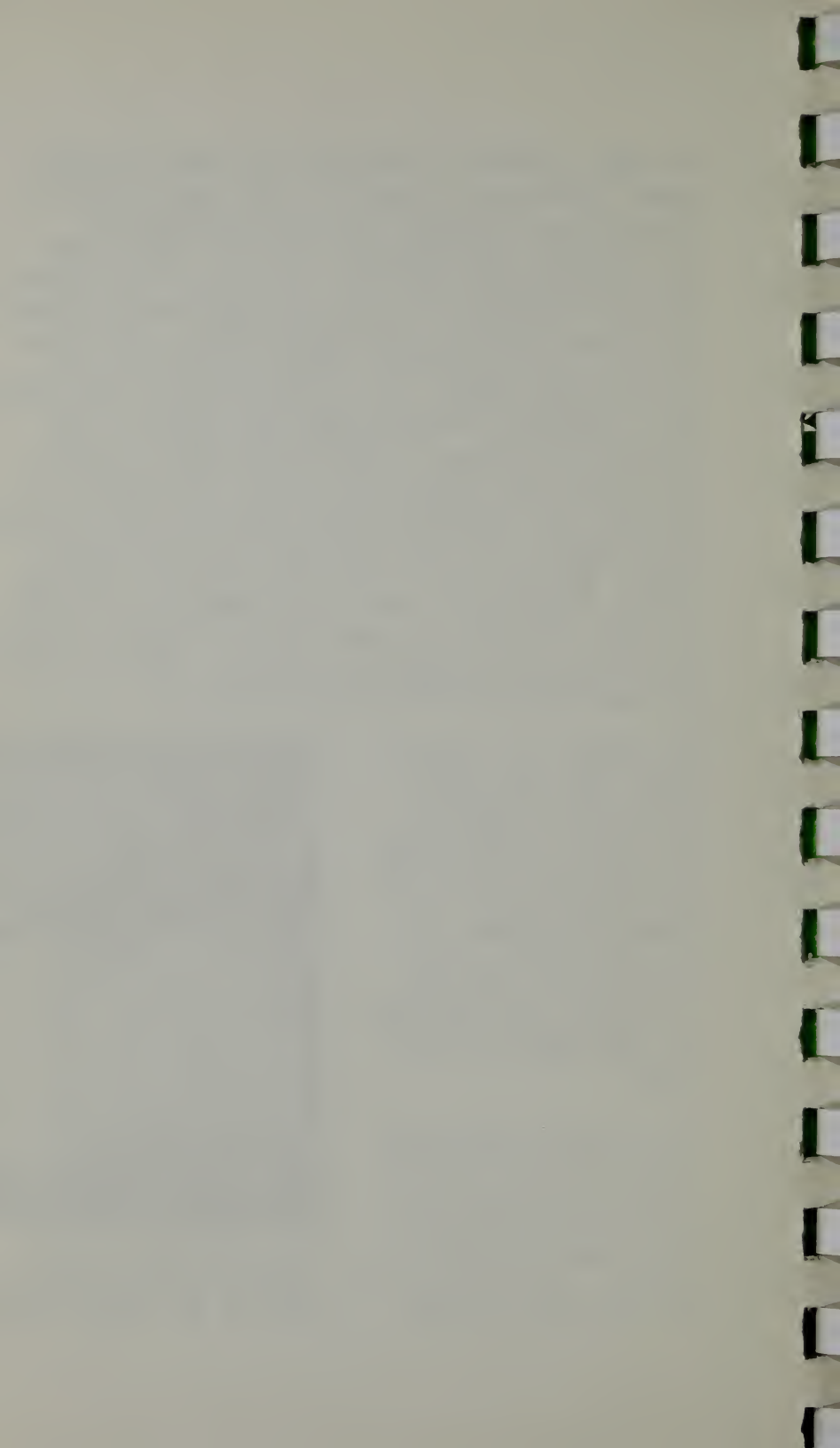
In 1811 a group of citizens (all men it would seem) including a number of the paper manufacturers began holding Episcopal services in the village schoolhouse. In 1813 the Parish was incorporated and the building of St. Mary's Church was begun. It is a simple Federal meeting house with unusual Gothic trim. According to the late William H. Hollis, historian for Newton Lower Falls, "St. Mary's may be regarded as a monument of taste and pious zeal." The original box pews, no two alike and all built to please the individual owners, are still in use and the windows contain some of the old glass. The chancel has been restored to its original plan. Candles were the first form of illumination, followed by whale-oil lamps and in 1828 by gas. The Parish owns choice colonial silver for use in the communion service. This is kept at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

St. Mary's is considered the most architecturally valuable structure in the area as well as one of the district's most prominent landmarks. It is the oldest church building in the City of Newton and pictured on the cover of this book.

The nearby churchyard where many of the devoted supporters of the church are buried is a spot of quiet peace. It is a feature of the early period



This shelter for the village hearse still stands back of St. Mary's Church



which has remained unchanged with the passing of time. The little white house in the yard was built in 1838 and was used to store the hearse.

A Methodist Parish was organized in 1869 and in 1889 erected a church at 2342 Washington Street. This structure has a square tower supporting the steeple and simple decorative detail.



In 1959 the building was purchased by St. Demetrious Greek Orthodox Church who sold it to the Shipley Co. in 1971 and is now in use for commercial purposes.

2342 Washington Street

At the east end of town stood the ancient tavern of Colonel Ephriam Jackson, a descendant of Edward Jackson, and later run by Nathaniel Wales. It was a favorite halting point for the stages to Albany, and competed with Hoogs' Tavern located at the corner of Concord and Washington Street. The William Hurd house at 2313 Washington Street was purchased about 1840 by Stephen Cate who ran it as an inn for travelling men and theatrical visitors.

The first schoolhouse in the village was built in 1785 and stood on Washington Street across from the first stone mill. This was replaced by two succeeding buildings at this location and finally in 1927 by the present school at 545 Grove Street.



2262 Washington Street as it appeared a hundred or more years ago and as it is today. This was the old Hamilton School and built about 1850.



The second school was moved across the street in 1866 by Thomas Rice and became part of what is now 2262 Washington Street. For some years the Methodist Parish met here and it also contained stores and for a time the local Post Office.

Other "firsts" for Newton Lower Falls were Newton's first Fire Company known as Cataract No. 1 and first fire engine. The company headquarters were on Washington Street until 1900 when a new build-

ing was erected at 677 Grove Street. Newton Lower Falls had its own free library in 1869. In 1923 the first branch of the Newton Free Library was opened in the fire station and dedicated to Victor L. Dennis, a veteran of World War I. In 1956 the entire building was taken over for the use of this branch.

Another structure of interest in this study is located at 2366 Washington Street next to the



2366 Washington Street

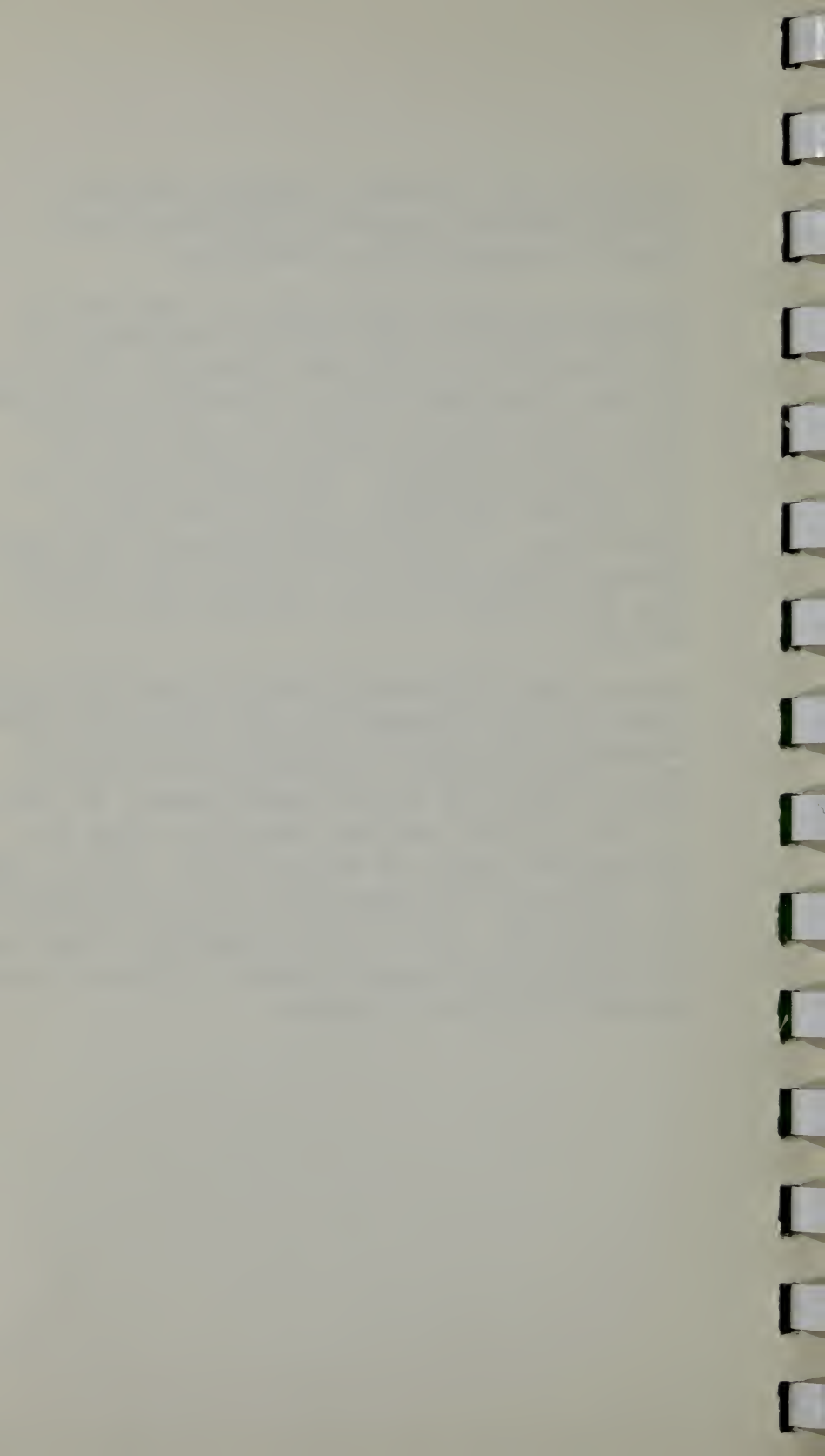
bridge and is now occupied by the Lower Falls Post Office and a wine company. It is listed in the 1874 Atlas as Boyden Hall and erected before 1855. It has a hipped roof and an Italianate style. Most of the exterior detail has been added in this century with considerable taste.

Over the years Newton Lower Falls has been characterized by a strong sense of community pride and vital concern for the destiny of the village which persist to this day. With the future being deeply influenced by decisions of the Redevelopment Authority, these feelings have recently come to the fore once again. The area is under con-

sideration for becoming a Historic District whereby exterior changes in properties would have to be approved by a commission.

Research on Newton Lower Falls was carried out by Mrs. Donald M. Budge with the assistance of Mrs. Norman Kattwinkel, Mrs. Edward E. Shine Jr. and Mrs. John Hazel Smith. Gratitude is extended also to Mr. George H. Larsen for the extensive notes on the village which he turned over to the Jackson Homestead. Historical writings of the late Mr. William H. Hollis were also of great value. The Historical Sketch of the Lucy Jackson Chapter House of the D. A. R., written by Mrs. D. E. Baker in 1926, provided much information.

Much of the architectural detail came from an extensive report prepared for Mr. Charles E. Downe, Community and Regional Planning Consultant by Miss Eleanor Pearson, Architectural Historian. Sincere thanks go to Mr. Eugene Wadman, Mr. Herbert J. Aron, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Budge for photographic work, as well as to Mr. Alan B. Larkin for assistance in preparation of the photographs for printing. Miss Beatrice Holland's typing of the manuscript was an invaluable help to the staff. The material was edited by Mrs. E. Graham Bates and Mrs. William H. Cannard.



NEWTON LOWER FALLS HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1855

C O N C O R D S T R E E T

108 Concord Street - Circa 1850

Henry Gault-Owner in 1855

Rev. R. F. Putnam-Owner in
1874

An interesting blending of Greek Revival and early Victorian architecture. There is a recessed entrance porch, two large nine-over-nine windows and a simple, arched front window with colored glass panes. The side ell has a gambrel roof, and patterned shingles are featured.

Rev. Richard F. Putnam, rector of St. Mary's Church from 1868 to 1875, lived in this house which was later bought by the parish for a rectory.

122 Concord Street - Circa 1848

Allen Jordan-Owner in 1855
and in 1874

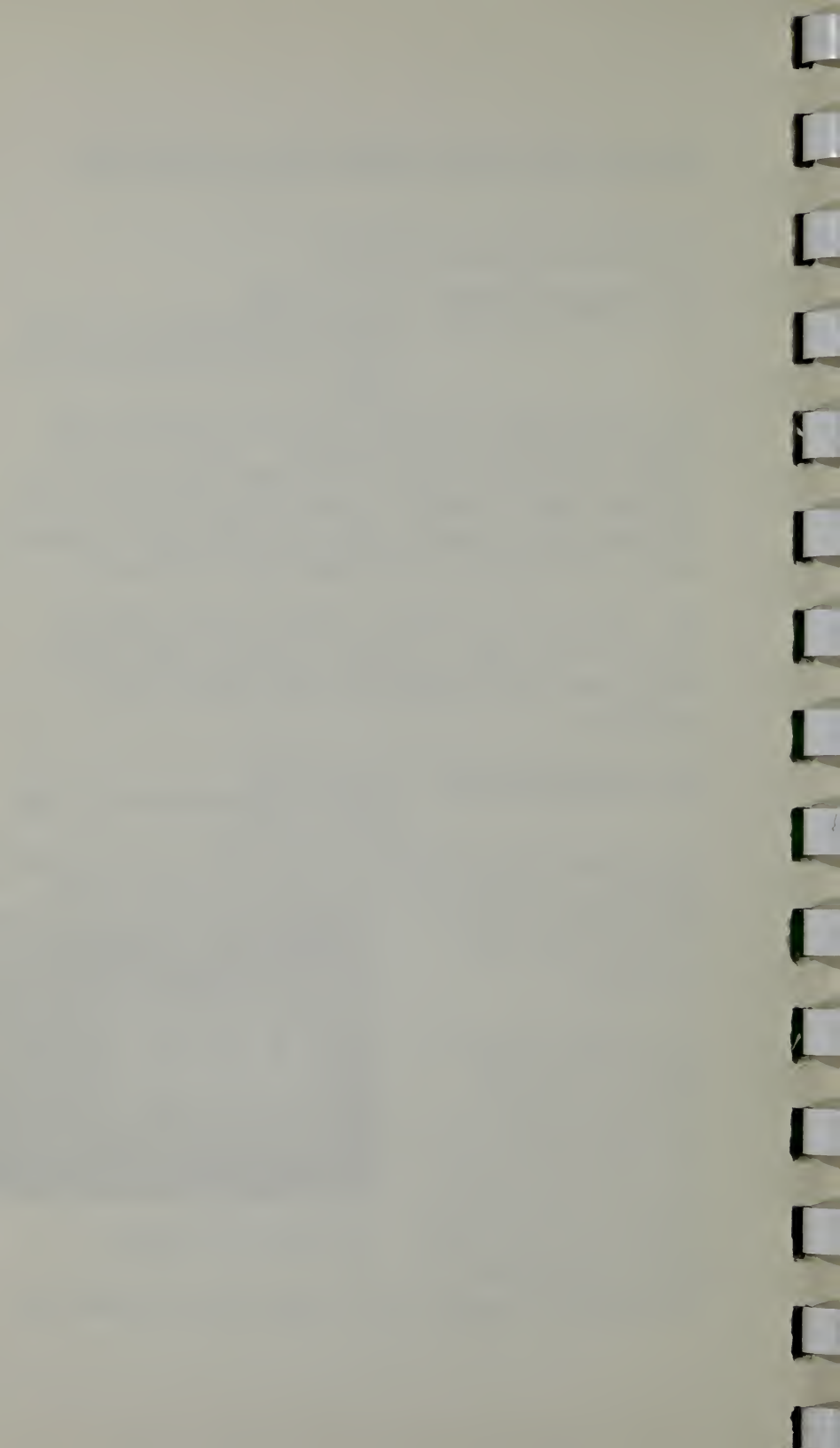
This basically Victorian house has many colonial details. It has been remodeled several times once with an Italianate tower now removed.



Mrs. Allen Jordan's sister was Sarah Fuller, a distinguished teacher of the deaf and founder and first principal of the Boston School for the Deaf where Alexander

122 Concord Street

Graham Bell taught. Mr. Bell often visited in



this house and occasionally boarded there while working on the invention of the telephone. He was known as "Uncle Allie" to the Jordan children and took long walks in the nearby countryside. Here he worked far into the night over the theories of acoustics, and experimented with various sound-producing and transmitting articles which eventually resulted in the telephone.

Miss Fuller was Helen Keller's teacher and also instructed Miss Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller's later companion.

171 Concord Street - Circa 1830

Mrs. Luther Peabody-Owner
in 1831

Stanley Seaverns-Owner in
1855

This house was built by Benjamin Stedman and



171 Concord Street

stood originally on the Weston side of the river. It was moved to its present location about 1915.

Probably at that time the pedimented second-floor projection was added and the original doorway altered.

186 Concord Street - Circa 1850

Dr. E. Warren-Owner in 1855
and in 1874

A transitional house of the early Victorian period, it features twin side porches with decorative



186 Concord Street

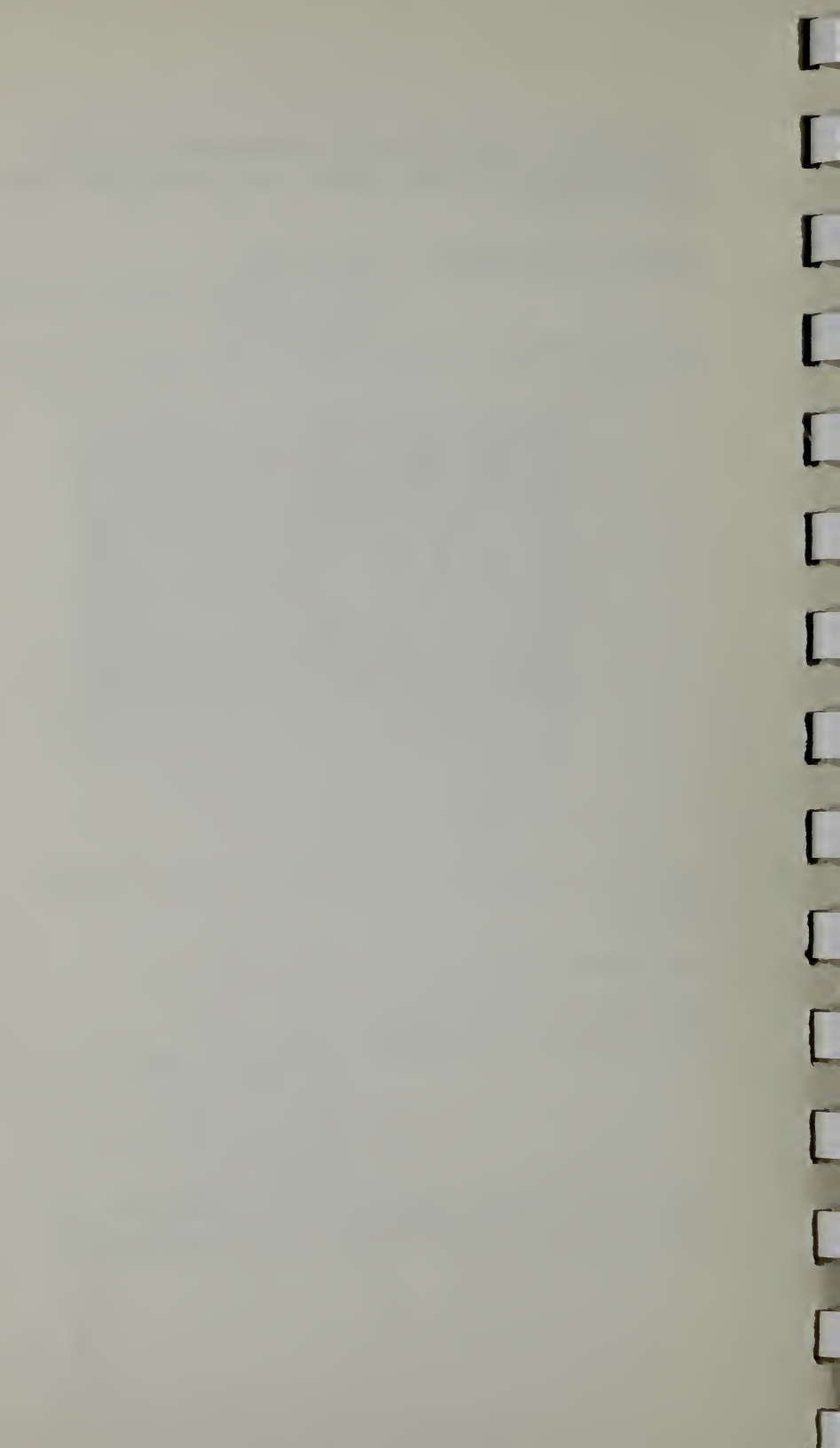
woodwork, and narrow windows in well-balanced style.

Dr. Warren was an allopathic physician.

198-200 Concord Street - Circa 1830

Kingsbury-Owner in 1831
H. Starr-Owner in 1848
and in 1855
F. Cordingly-Owner in
1874

The Greek Revival influence is evident in the architecture of this house with the one-story



pillars on the porch and wide entablature under the eave of the porch.

The house has been considerably altered. Originally there were four windows across the front.



198-200 Concord Street

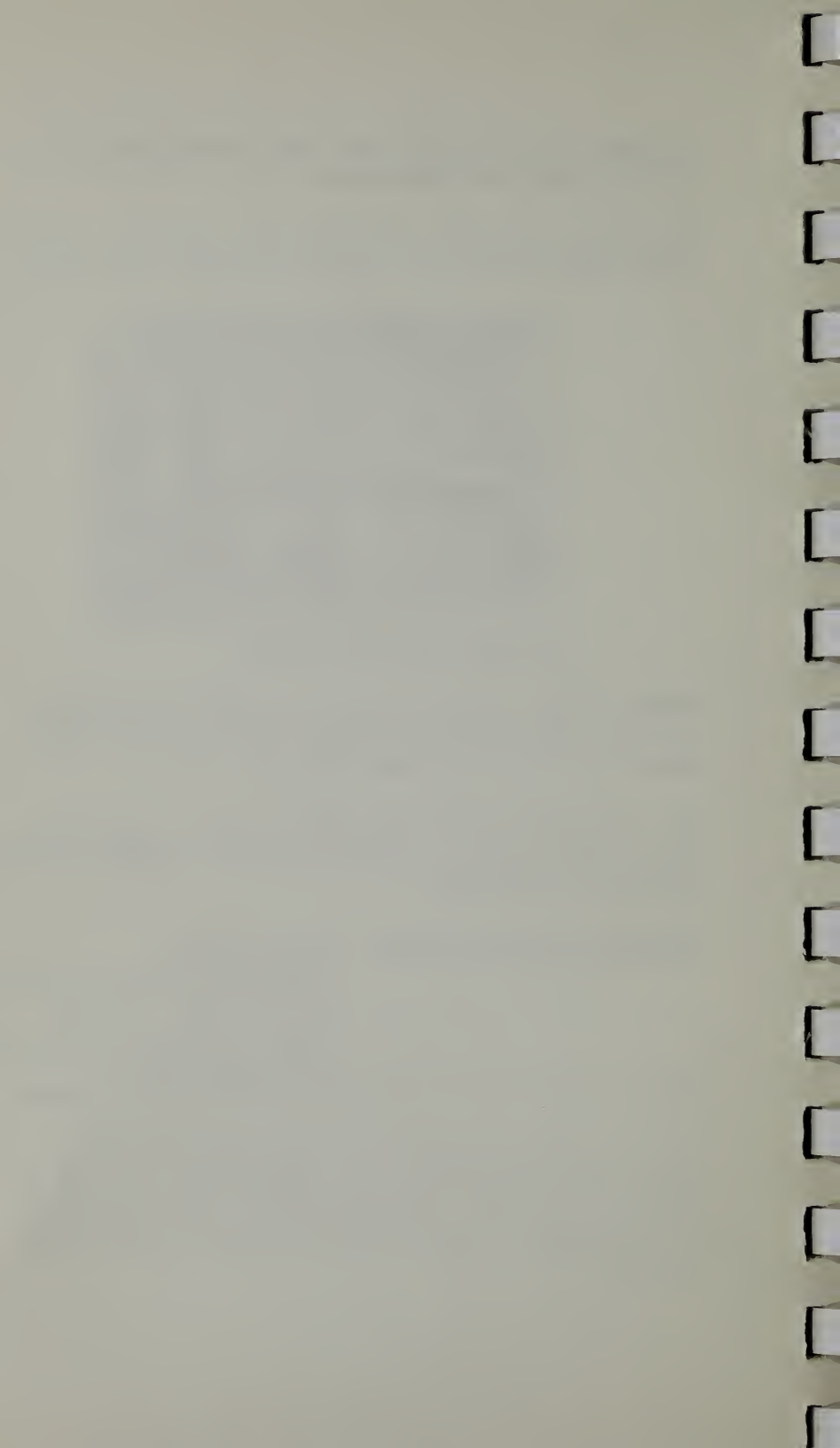
Horace Starr kept a store near the footbridge and was an ardent sportsman who found an abundance of fish and game nearby.

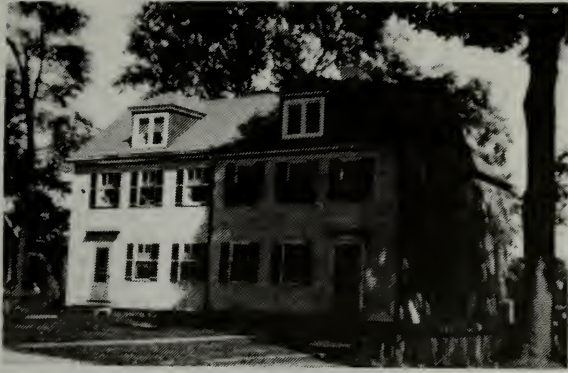
Mr. Cordingly with his brother W. S. acquired the Curtis mills in 1860 and manufactured shoddy and wool products.

206-208 Concord Street - Before 1831
Kingsbury-Owner in 1831
Evans-Owner in 1848
Mrs. Z. Crane-Owner in
1855 and 1874

Large, gable-roofed house with two front doors.

This was the homestead of the Crane family, paper manufacturers, who established the large mills in Dalton, Massachusetts, and introduced the process of using silk threads in bank note paper.





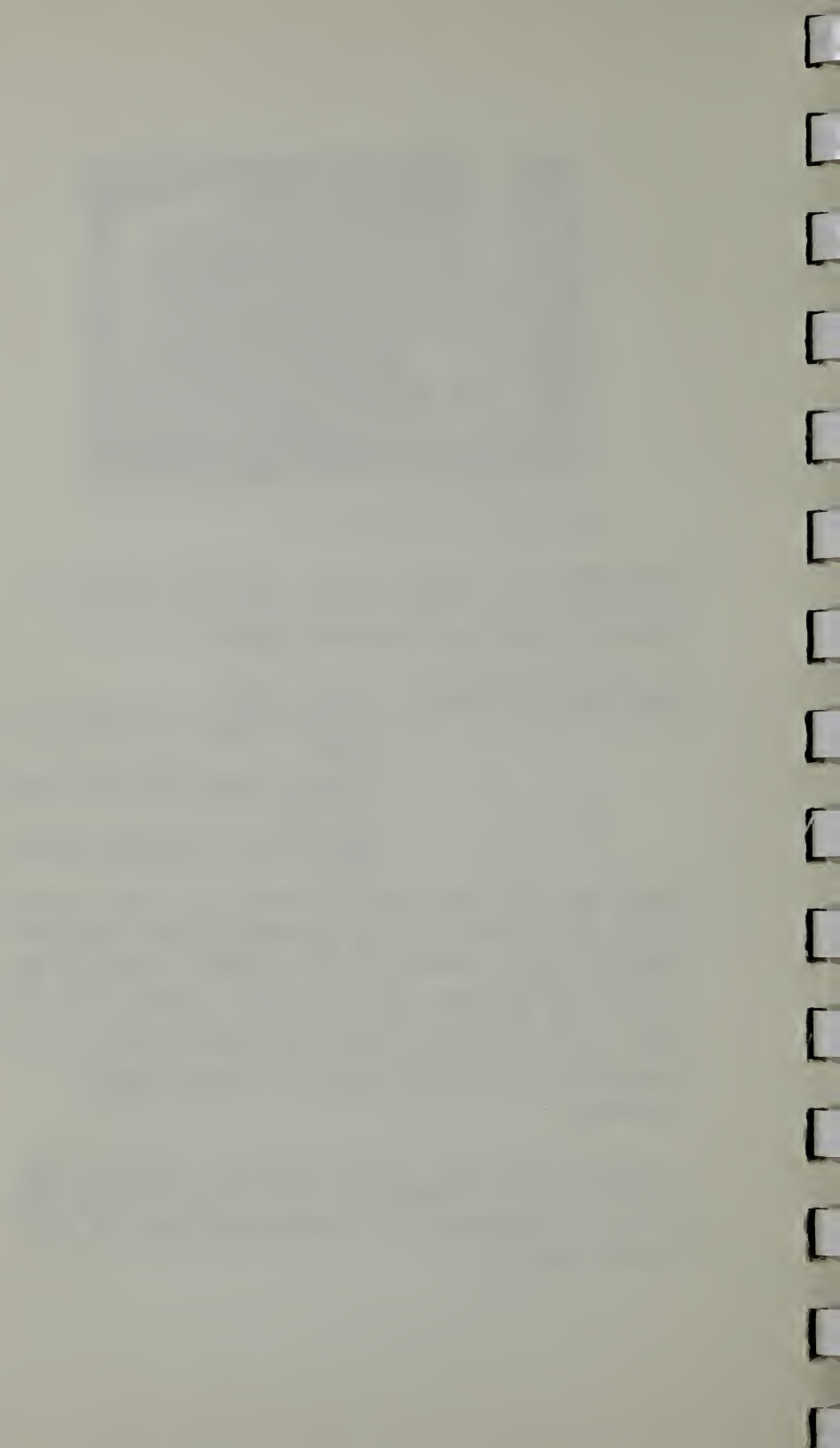
206-208 Concord Street

Following Mr. Zenas Crane's untimely death in New York State, Mrs. Crane returned to this house to raise her five children.

214 Concord Street - Before 1831
Foster-Owner in 1831 and in 1848
Joseph Foster Estate-Owner in 1855
Augustus C. Wiswall-Owner in 1874

While the 1831 map shows a house at this location, the architecture of the present house suggests a later period. Possibly Mr. Wiswall rebuilt an earlier dwelling. Here we have a mansard-roofed house with floor-length windows, and a front and side porch formerly with bracketed pillars. Interesting scrollwork remains around curved dormers.

Joseph Foster was a mill operator between 1817 and 1853 and is probably the Joseph Foster listed as a selectman and a Representative of the General Court.





214 Concord Street as it appeared a hundred or more years ago



214 Concord Street in the 1970's

Augustus C. Wiswall purchased "Foster's Mills" in 1869. Here the Wiswall family made nearly two tons daily of Manila, colored and hanging papers. Mr. Clarence A. Wiswall, son of Augustus C., wrote a history of paper making in the Lower Falls called "One Hundred Years of Paper Making." This house is said to have been another station on the Underground Railroad.

C O R N E L L S T R E E T

Explanatory note involving five Lower Falls houses:

The 1855 map shows five houses standing at that time, where the Hamilton School now is. By 1874 this property shows in the City Atlas as a vacant lot. The Crehores made use of the land for drying paper. It is believed that the five houses were moved into the nearby neighborhood between 1855 and 1874, and they will be noted as they appear in the listing.

31 Cornell Street - Probably before 1855
L. Crehore-Owner in 1855
Mrs. S. G. Thaxter-Owner in 1874



31 Cornell Street

This house was purchased in 1870 by Charlotte Thaxter from Samuel Humphreys. It is believed that this is one of the houses which stood where the school now is and that it was moved at this time or shortly before. Without a doubt the mansard roof was not original, but an early improvement. The house is of superior construction.

77 Cornell Street - Probably before 1855
L. Crehore-Owner in 1855
Heirs of G. C. Crehore-Owner
in 1874

Without much doubt this house is another of those moved from the location of the Hamilton School. The gambrel roof was probably an early alteration, possibly when the house was enlarged or rebuilt somewhere between 1886 and 1893.

85 Cornell Street - About 1840
George F. W. Richardson-Owner
in 1855
C. W. Richardson-Owner in 1874

One Timothy Richardson purchased this land in 1837 from Lemuel Crehore. It is possible that the core of the present house was built at that time or shortly thereafter. By 1907 it had been considerably enlarged.

132-134 Cornell Street - Before 1855
R. S. Fay-Owner in 1874

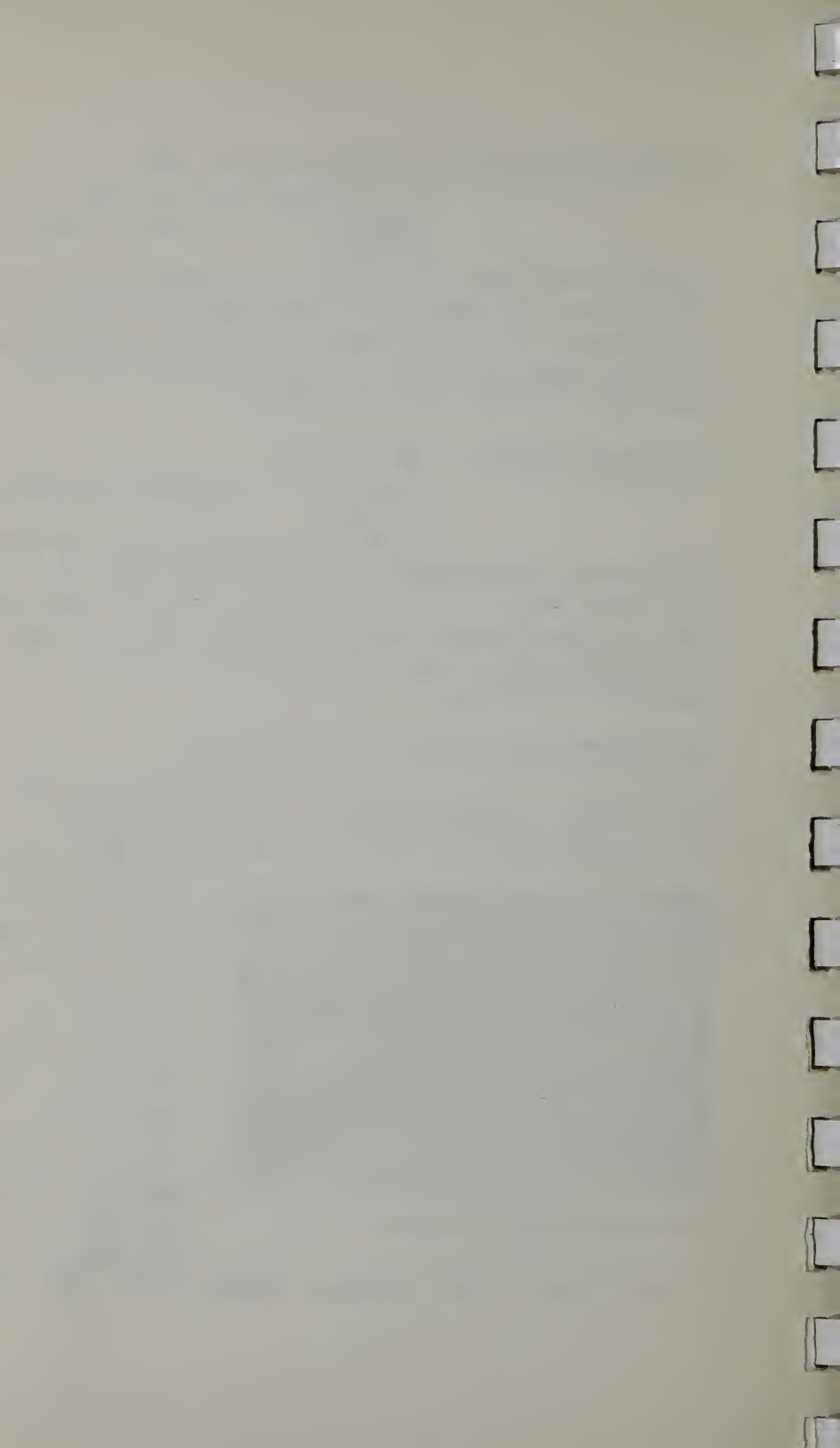
This house, a cottage-type, two family duplex, is probably another which was moved from the area



now occupied by the Hamilton School on Grove Street. From the Registry of Deeds we learn that R. S. Fay purchased this property in 1869 from Asa Jones who was the administrator

132-134 Cornell Street

of the Vaughn Jones estate. Vaughn Jones, who in



addition to other business investments was a builder, received this land from Lemuel Crehore in 1853. It may be assumed that Mr. Jones moved this house to his land at the time the others were moved in the late 1860's.

135 Cornell Street - 1845-1847

J. Fuller-Owner in 1855

Mrs. B. A. Beck-Owner in
1874

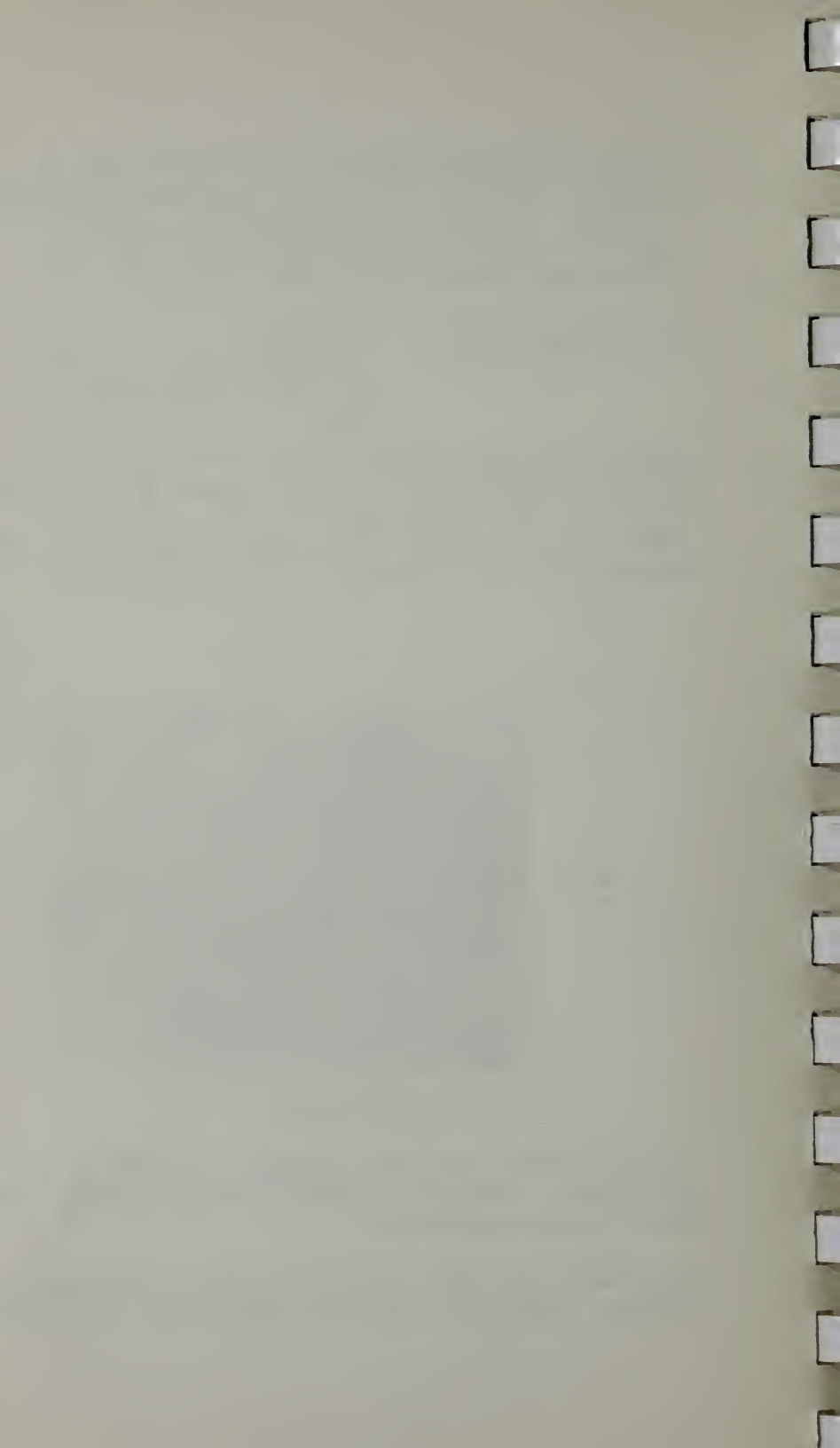
This house was probably built by Vaughn Jones who was responsible for many houses in this area (see 665, 666, 671 Grove Street). It is of Greek Revival design with corner pilasters. The windows are six-over-six and the attractive,



135 Cornell Street

simple doorway has side lights. A later wing was added. Interior changes are in keeping with the original tradition.

Adam Beck operated a machine shop on Washington Street. Once on a dare he jumped into the river



above the upper dam during a spring flood.
"He was swept over the ten-foot fall and
through the rapids below and swam ashore
some distance, thereby winning the wager."
(From "One Hundred Years of Paper Making.")

G R O V E S T R E E T

Note: Grove Street numbers begin at the upper
end, toward Auburndale.

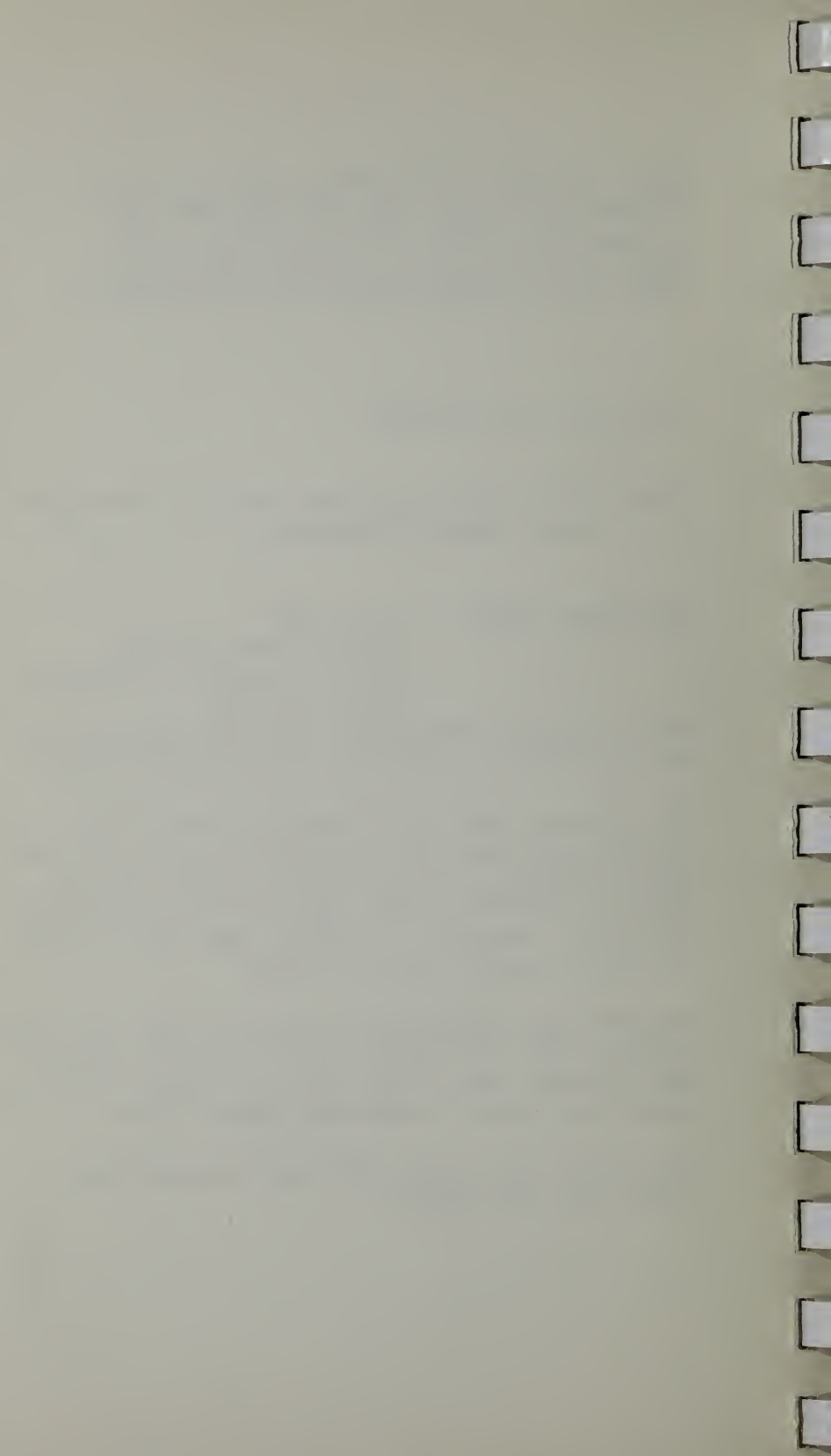
528 Grove Street - Circa 1850
Crehore-Owner in 1855
Heirs of George C. Crehore-
Owners in 1874

This dormered cottage has its main entrance at
the side with a bracketed hood over the door.

The Crehore name is featured in Lower Falls
history for well over a hundred years. In 1825,
Lemuel Crehore, a new arrival in the village,
became a partner of Mr. Hurd in the manufacture
of paper. Lemuel's residence, now gone, stood
near the present Crehore Drive.

Lemuel's son George was a partner with his father
between 1854 and 1867. Other brothers managed
the business until 1919 and the company continued
under the Crehore name until about 1950.

This house and number 540 were undoubtedly
built for mill "help."



540 Grove Street - Between 1849 and 1851

J. K. R. Emery-Owner in 1855
Heirs of G. C. Crehore-Owners
in 1874



Another cottage-style house with a bracketed hood over the door at the side and an under-the-eave window above. The front porch is a later addition.

This house was undoubtedly built for mill help. City directory of 1868 lists James K. Emery as a "driver."

540 Grove Street

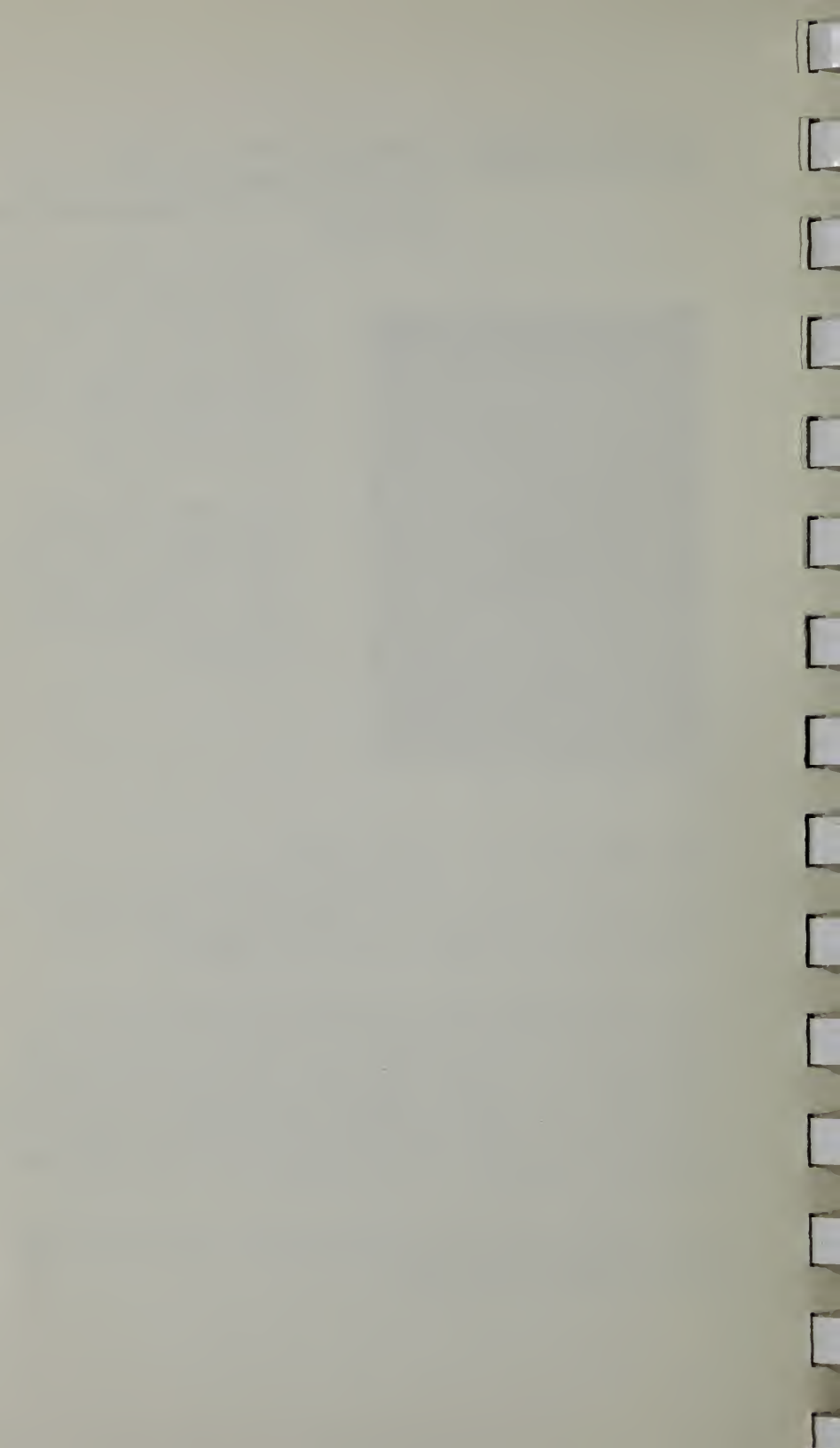
544 Grove Street - Circa 1850

Wm. Clatworthy-Owner in 1874

This house appears to be another of the five moved from directly across the street.

Mr. Clatworthy, who purchased the property in 1868 from Lemuel Crehore, is listed in the City Directories between 1868 and 1885 as "engineer," "farmer" and "paper maker for Crehore." Mr. Crehore had sold the land in 1848 to William D. Hatch and apparently bought it back again in 1851 with the buildings on it.

The pedimented hood entrance with porch was probably a later addition.



554 Grove Street - Before 1848

W. C. Hubbard-Owner in 1855

Mrs. J. Hubbard-Owner in 1874

A workman's cottage with fieldstone foundation, a single chimney and kitchen ell. The dormers are similar to those at 528.

Mr. Hubbard was a gardener for the Crehore's.

566 Grove Street - Before 1855

Mrs. E. E. Houghton-Owner in
1874

This house is thought to be another of those moved from the site of the Hamilton School. In 1868 John P. Houghton purchased the property from Martha J. Jones, widow of Vaughn Jones. Vaughn Jones had bought the land from L. Crehore in 1853 and probably moved this house on it.

577 Grove Street - Circa 1837

Richardson-Owner in 1848

G. F. Richardson-Owner in 1855
and in 1874

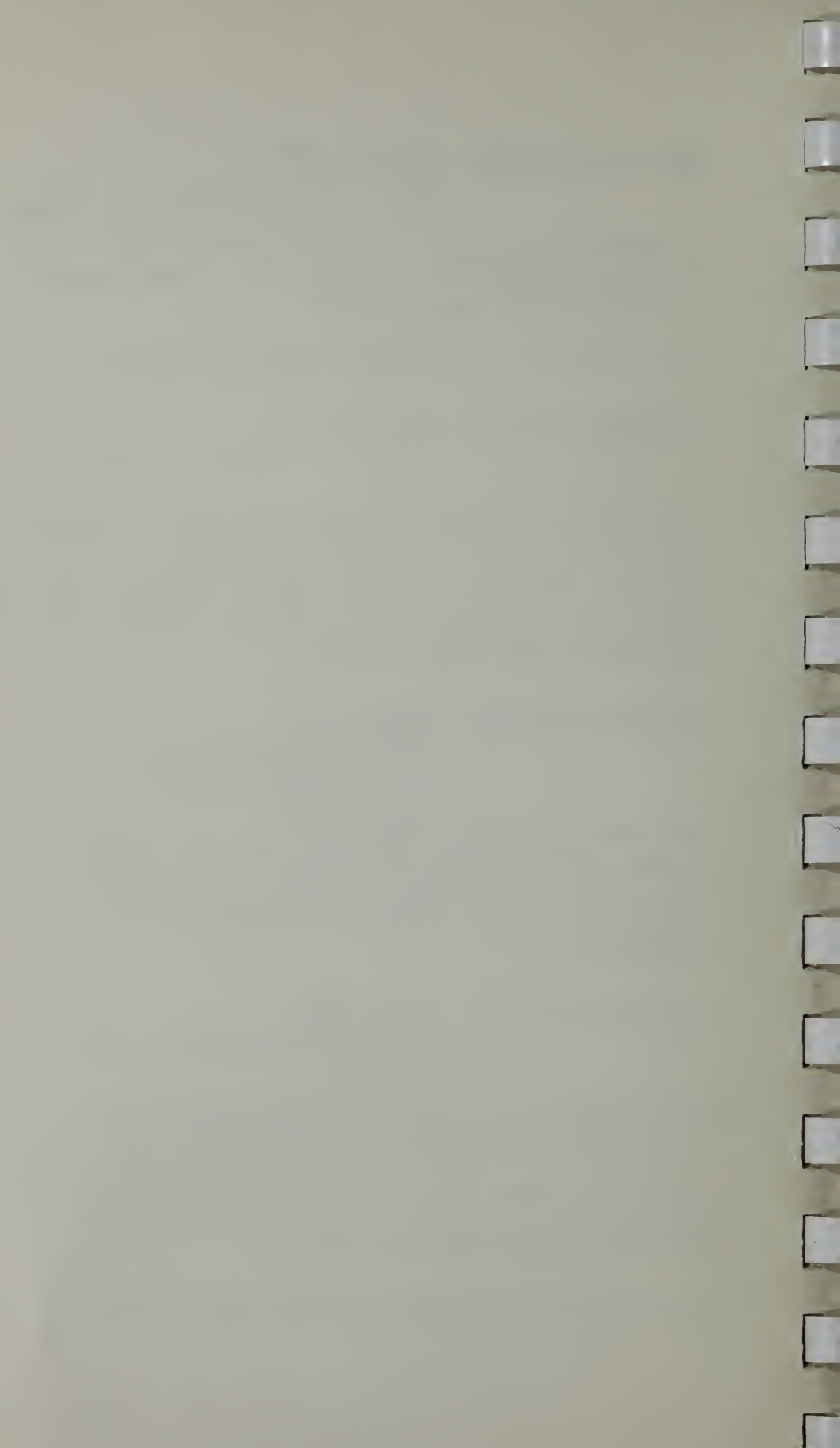
This cottage-style house retains old floorboards on the second floor and original door-locks throughout. The front entrance and dormers were later additions. George F. Richardson was a carpenter.

581 Grove Street - Circa 1837

C. S. Flagg-Owner in 1855 and
in 1874

An attractive doorway, unusual window frames and an original brick oven are among the many early features which have been retained in this charming house. The bay window on the left and square addition to the right and rear are undoubtedly of a later period.

Cassander S. Flagg was another paper maker.





581 Grove Street

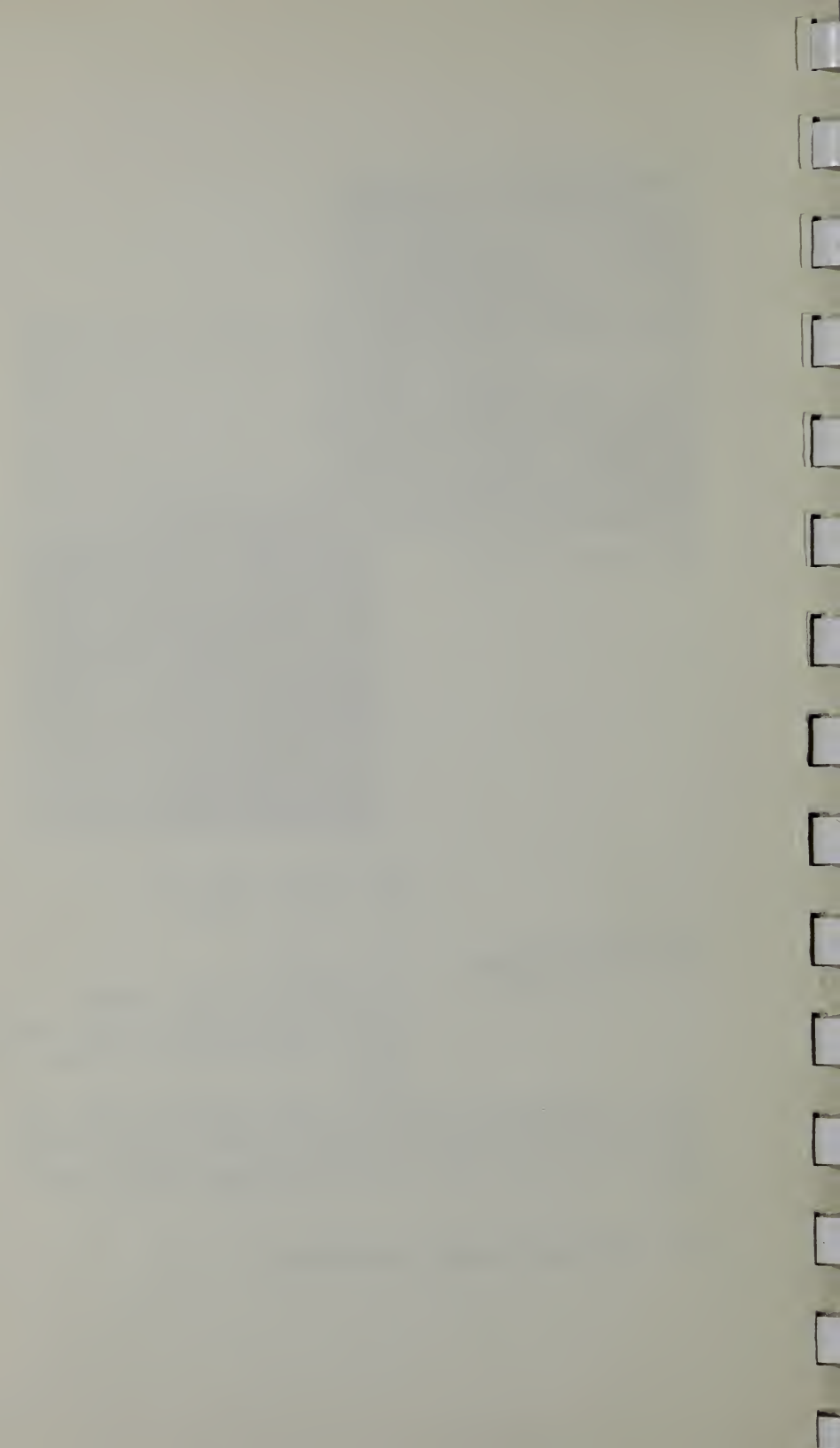


Old Brick oven at
581 Grove Street

584 Grove Street - Circa 1850
S. Crehore-Early owner
Samuel McCutcheon-Later owner
Heirs of McCutcheon-Owners in
1874

Small two-story Victorian with mansard roof and only one first-floor window on the front facade. There are front and back staircases and a rear ell.

Mr. McCutcheon was a carpenter.





584 Grove Street

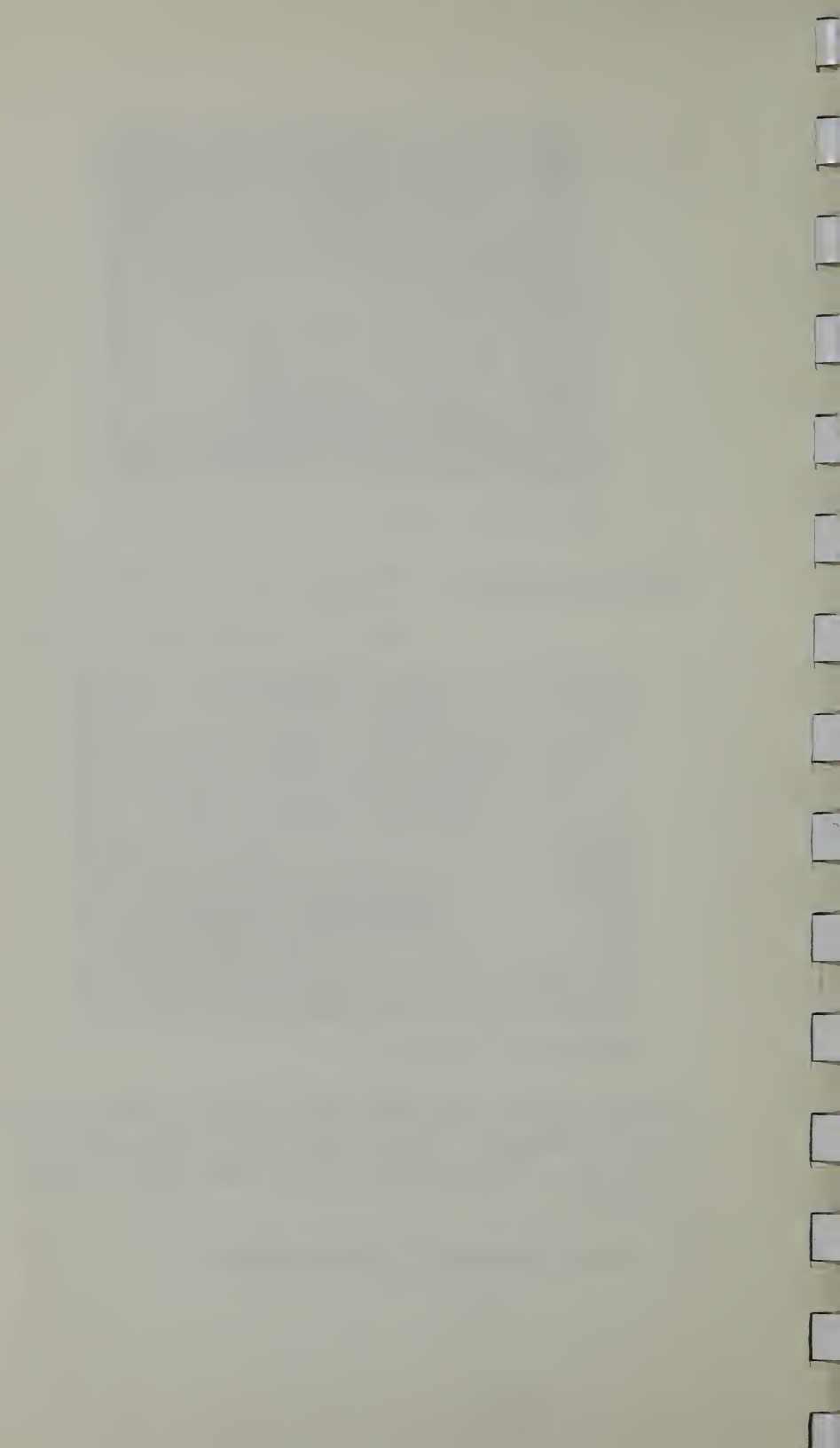
585 Grove Street - Between 1848 and 1855
 John Jones-Owner in 1855
 Mrs. S. Jones-Owner in 1874



585 Grove Street

Cottage style one-and-a-half story house with a single chimney. Four rooms have been added to the rear. The entrance porch was also a later addition.

Mr. John Jones was a paper maker.



Note: There are few sections of the City of Newton with a greater concentration of early houses than along Grove Street between numbers 640 and 676. On both sides of the street is an unbroken row of Victorian houses built over a twenty-year span beginning in 1831. Most of them show a Greek Revival influence in their architecture. The atmosphere of the area is enhanced by the nearby early church and peaceful graveyard. Here is a rare opportunity for imaginative preservation and restoration which would result in a uniquely charming section of period homes.

640 Grove Street - 1831 or 1832

Lemuel Crehore-Owner in 1833
and in 1848

Isaac Hagar-Owner in 1855
and in 1874

Early New England gambrel Cape style with central chimney, fieldstone foundation and two steep interior stairways. The pedimented entrance is probably a later addition.



This house was the home of Isaac Hagar Jr., son of Isaac Hagar 640 Grove Street Sr., of 2310 Washington Street. He served on the Newton Board of Aldermen and for a long period was a member of the School Committee. He represented Newton

in the State Legislature.

For years Mr. Hagar was interested in the making of boots and shoes by hand. For a shop he used the little building which had formerly served as the Post Office and was later attached to his father's house. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

646 Grove Street -

Neal-Owner in 1848

Crehore-Owner in 1855

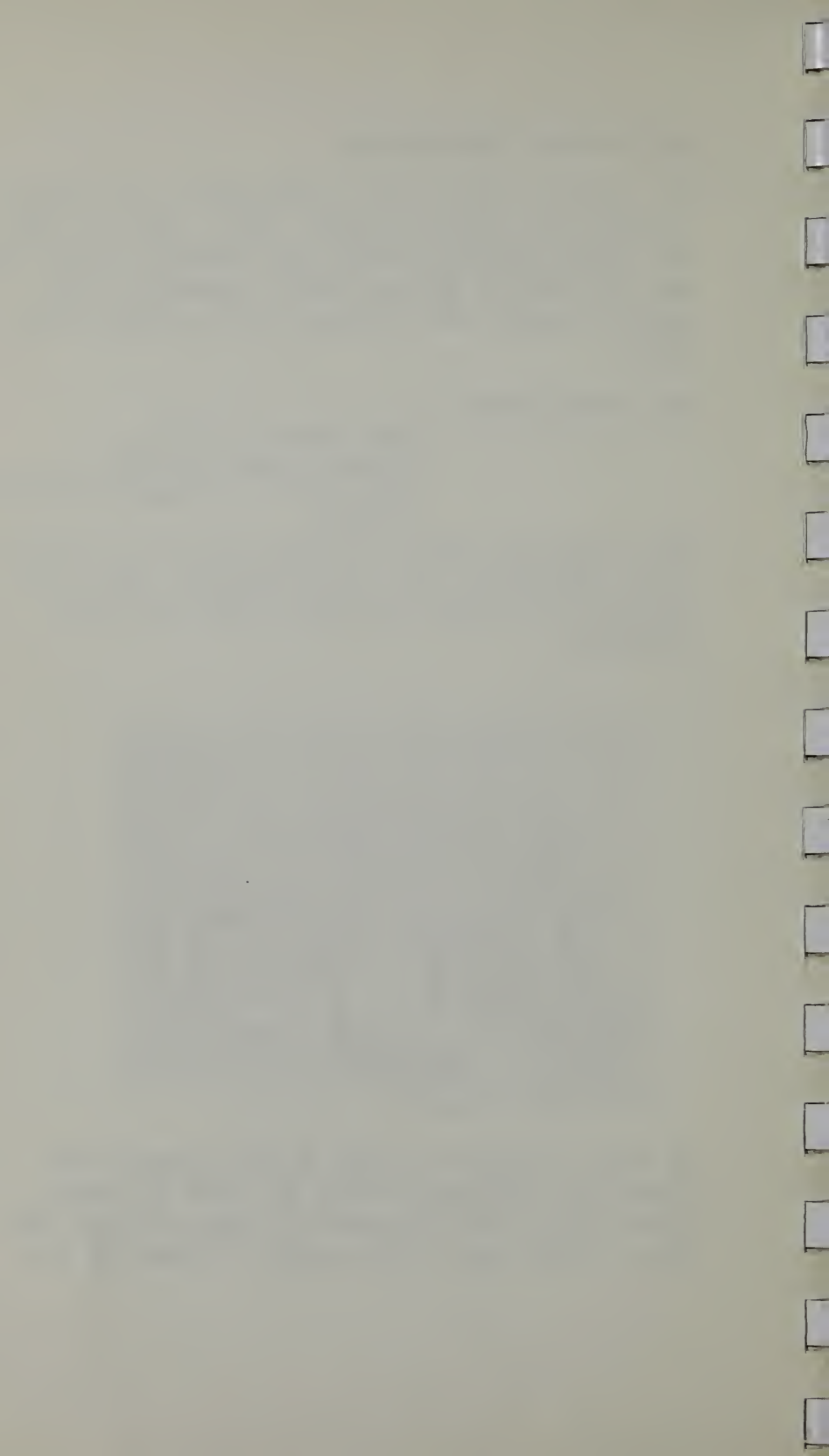
Heirs of G. C. Crehore-Owners
in 1874

This house of simple colonial lines has a field-stone foundation, two back chimneys, four fireplaces (all blocked up) and a front and back stairway.



646 Grove Street

An early occupant of this house (perhaps the first) was Nathaniel Wales who came to Newton Lower Falls from Watertown to work at paper making. He was one of the group of young men who



went to Canada in 1802 to build that country's first paper mill. He returned and married Abigail Jackson who inherited from her father Edward a tavern at the junction of Wales and Washington Streets. Mr. Wales ran this hotel until his death in 1855. He is buried in St. Mary's churchyard.

650 Grove Street - Circa 1835

William B. Davis-Owner in
1848, 1855 and 1874

This Cape-style house has three front gables,



650 Grove Street

a fieldstone foundation, peg beams and windows without weights. On the underside of the roof may be seen old newspapers dating back to the Civil War.

William B. Davis was employed as a paper maker by the Crehore's.

655 Grove Street - Circa 1850

Mrs. Henry-Owner in 1855

E. J. Collins-Owner in 1874

Probably rental property when owned by Mr. Collins,
manufacturer and City Treasurer.

Due to be razed under Redevelopment.

656 Grove Street - Circa 1845

Joel Estes-Owner in 1848 and
in 1855

Mrs. J. Turner-Owner in 1874

Two-and-one-half
story house with
moderately deep-
pitched roof and
decorative scroll-
work. Again front
and back stairways
and a lovely, lat-
er Victorian par-
queted floor in
the entrance hall.



656 Grove Street



Marble fireplace
in the parlour

Joel Estes married
Liefy Hagar, daughter
of Isaac Hagar
Sr. in 1837.



Right: Handsome
newel post at foot
of the front stair-
way. 656 Grove St.

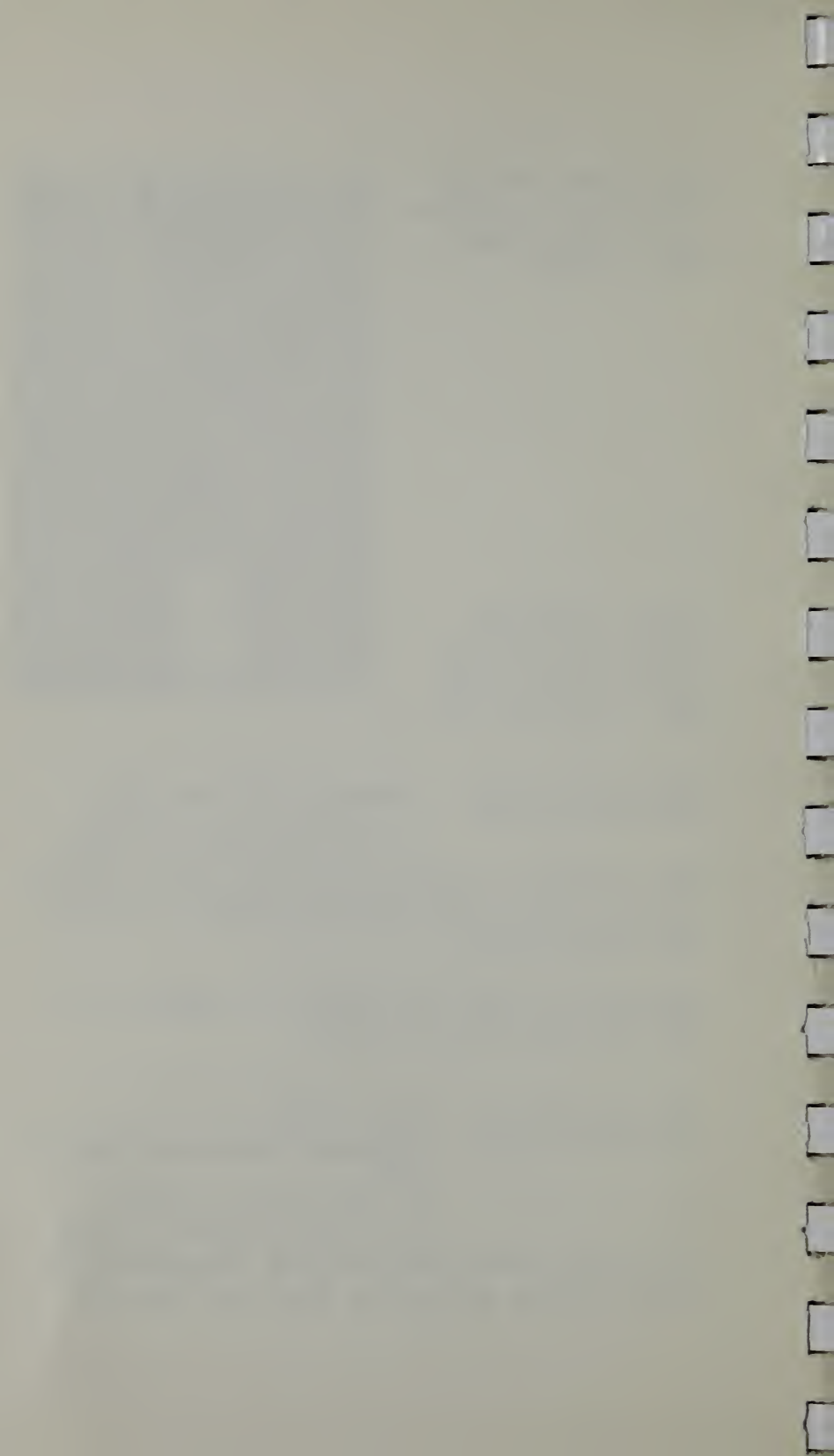
659 Grove Street - Between 1848 and 1855
B. Clark-Owner in 1855
J. H. Bour-Owner in 1874

This workman's cottage with twin front dormers
is to be moved under Redevelopment to replace
670 Grove Street.

Benjamin B. Clark is listed as a machinist in
the City Directory of 1868.

660 Grove Street - Circa 1835
Nathaniel Partridge-Owner in
1848
W. Rice-Owner in 1855
J. L. Sears-Owner in 1874

This house shows Greek Revival influence with
Doric columns across the front and floor-to



ceiling windows. Inside is an interesting cross-over front stairway.



660 Grove Street

W. Rice, listed as owner in 1855, was probably J. Willard Rice of the distinguished paper-making family. He served Newton as a selectman and later as an alderman. In later years he was a resident of Auburndale.

Joseph L. Sears was a prominent house and sign painter with a shop near the depot where he retailed painting supplies.

665 Grove Street - Between 1848 and 1855

Rev. A. Croswell-Owner in 1855

J. F. Wight-Owner in 1874

Fine Greek Revival details may be seen on this home. The porch has been enclosed. One of the five fireplaces has a marble mantel.

Rev. Andrew Croswell was the rector of St. Mary's Church from 1853 to 1855.



665 Grove Street

Joseph F. Wight was a fur dealer with a place at 70 Chauncey Street in Boston.

666 Grove Street - Before 1848

Davis-Owner in 1848

Mrs. Davis-Owner in 1855

Misses Davis-Owners in 1874

An interesting double-chimneyed house.



This Mr. Davis was possibly Walter F., a paper maker.

666 Grove Street

670 Grove Street - Before 1848

R. B. Blaisdell-Owner in 1855

J. G. Gould and G. D. Denton-
Owners in 1874

Another example of the Greek Revival influence so prevalent in this area.

It is said that this house was once used as "The Hamilton School for Girls" with the basement fitted up as a series of classrooms.

Mr. Blaisdell's family numbered nineteen people in 1856 according to the original census book.

Joshua Gould was a foreman and apparently neither he nor Mr. Denton lived in the house.

The plan is for this house to be razed under Re-development.

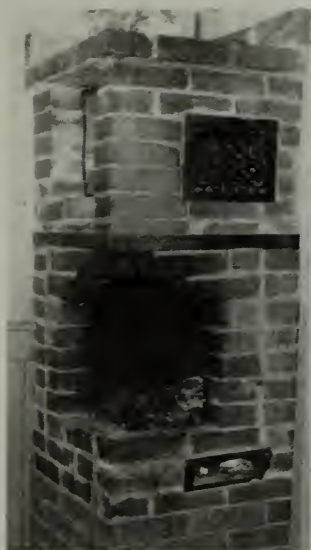
671 Grove Street - Between 1848 and 1855

V. Jones-Owner in 1855

Mrs. Jones-Owner in 1874

An essentially unaltered Greek Revival house of great charm with an exceptionally beautiful spiral staircase and an unusual brick corner fireplace in the rear of the dwelling. The present owner who has strong feelings that "happy things went on in this house" has discovered old newspapers with accounts of historic events and a wooden horse which may have been a weathervane, as well as a bricked-in underground enclosure the purpose of which remains a mystery. One speculates as to whether this could have been another hiding-place for slaves.

Vaughn Jones is thought to have built this house



Unusual oven and a
glimpse of the fine
spiral staircase at
671 Grove Street



for his own use, and a number of other Greek Revivals in the area. He is listed in the 1868 City Directory as a coal dealer and was connected with the Boston and Lower Falls Express.

This, and #665 Grove Street were probably twin houses originally.

676 Grove Street - Between 1832 and 1848
Rufus Moulton-Owner in 1855
and in 1874

One-and-one-half story house with two front dormers. Inside there are beautiful handmade doors

with wooden knobs and no locks. In the original kitchen, beside the fireplace, is a deep copper



676 Grove Street

basin which was probably used to heat water.

Rufus Moulton manufactured machinery on Washington Street.

Note: Miss Catherine Cooney, the present occupant, recalls going haying up on Moulton St. in her childhood.

H A M I L T O N S T R E E T

15 Hamilton Street - Before 1831

Thomas Rice Sr.-Owner in
1831, 1848 and 1855

Mrs. J. P. Atherton-Owner
in 1874

The mansard roof and bay windows of this house must have been added, probably by Thomas Rice Sr., to a basic rectangular house.

Thomas Rice Sr. was an important paper manufacturer owning several mills on the Needham (now Wellesley) side of the river. His three sons, born and brought up here, all achieved prominence in state or local politics. The



15 Hamilton Street

youngest, Alexander Hamilton Rice, served as Mayor of Boston in 1856 and as Governor of the State from 1875 to 1877. Thomas Jr. built an impressive residence with lovely plantings on adjoining land. A photograph of that house is shown in the section of "Early Houses Destroyed."

QUINOBEQUIN ROAD

26 Quinobequin Road - 1828

Allen Crocker Curtis-Owner
in 1831, 1848 and in 1855

Henry P. Eaton-Owner in 1874

This handsome Ionic-porticoed Greek Revival house is a landmark of the area. Since it became a restaurant extensive additions have been made, but the basic original structure remains intact.

Allen Crocker Curtis and his brother, William, carried on their father's business in the mills which stand between the Crehore mills and the



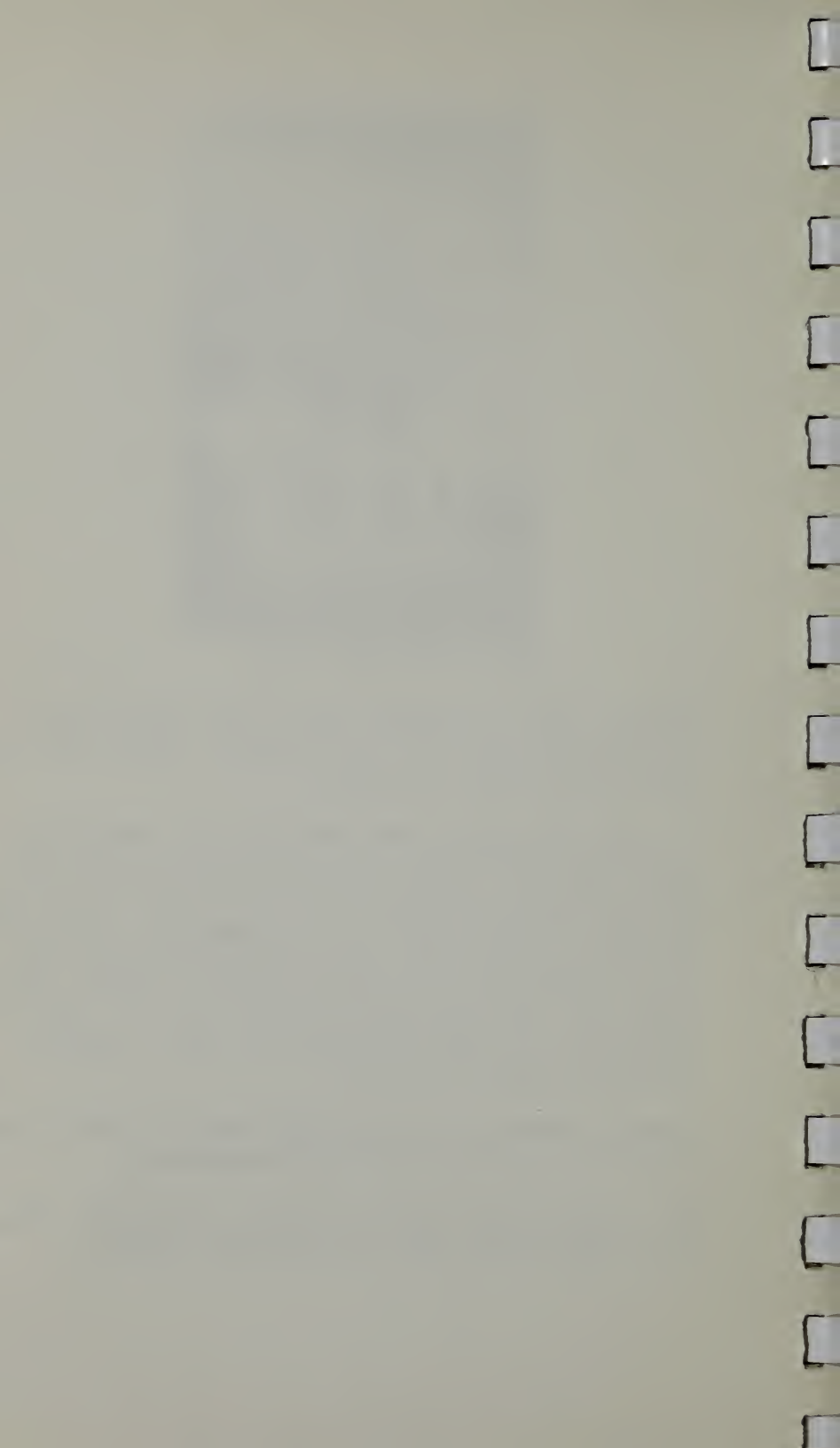
26 Quinobequin Road

river. They installed two of the first Four-drinier machines in this country. These made a continuous sheet of paper.

In 1834 they tore down the old mills they had purchased and built a new, commodious stone mill. Their business, which had been started by their father, Solomon Curtis, was successful until just before the Civil War when sixty-eight years of paper making by the Curtis family at Lower Falls ended and the mills were bought by W. S. and F. Cordingly and were converted to use in making shoddy and wool extract.

Henry P. Eaton, who owned the house in 1874, was a manufacturer of paper mill machinery.

At a later date Royal L. Putnam conducted a studio here where piano and dancing were taught.



WASHINGTON STREET

2072 Washington Street - Between 1831 and 1848
Steadman (or Stedman)-
Owner in 1855
Luther E. Leland-Owner
in 1874

This house has basic colonial lines with a gable roof. Note high half-moon window on side facade. Doubtless the bay windows are a later addition.

Ellis C. Stedman, another oldtime paper maker of Lower Falls lived in this house for many years.



Luther Leland, a later occupant, was a principal of the Hamilton School.

2072 Washington Street

2310 Washington Street - Between 1804 and 1809
Isaac Hagar Sr.-Owner
up to 1828
Isaac Hagar Jr.-Owner
in 1855
Dr. C. F. Crehore-Owner
in 1874

This Georgian house has a fine doorway with unauthentic scrollwork added to the pediment. Doric pilasters and strongly modeled moldings around the windows are original. The rear of the house seems to date from the 18th century and was apparently rebuilt before 1850. It is believed that this dwelling was another station on the Underground Railway.



2310 Washington Street

Isaac Hagar Sr. was a cordwainer or leather worker, a Newton selectman and long a member of the School Committee and the Board of Assessors.

Dr. Charles F. Crehore, a distinguished surgeon in the Civil War, carried on the management of the Crehore Mills after his father's death in 1868.

The house has been razed under Redevelopment.

2313 Washington Street - Early 19th Century
(Possibly 1816)
William Hurd-Owner in 1848
Stephen Cate-Owner in 1855
and in 1874

This house is of the Federal period with two chimneys, a gable roof and the quality of an early farmhouse. The extensive wing to the rear was a later addition.

The builder was probably William Hurd, a pioneer paper manufacturer who owned a mill on the Welles-

ley (then Needham) side of the river. For many years this mill produced the paper for the Boston "Evening Transcript."

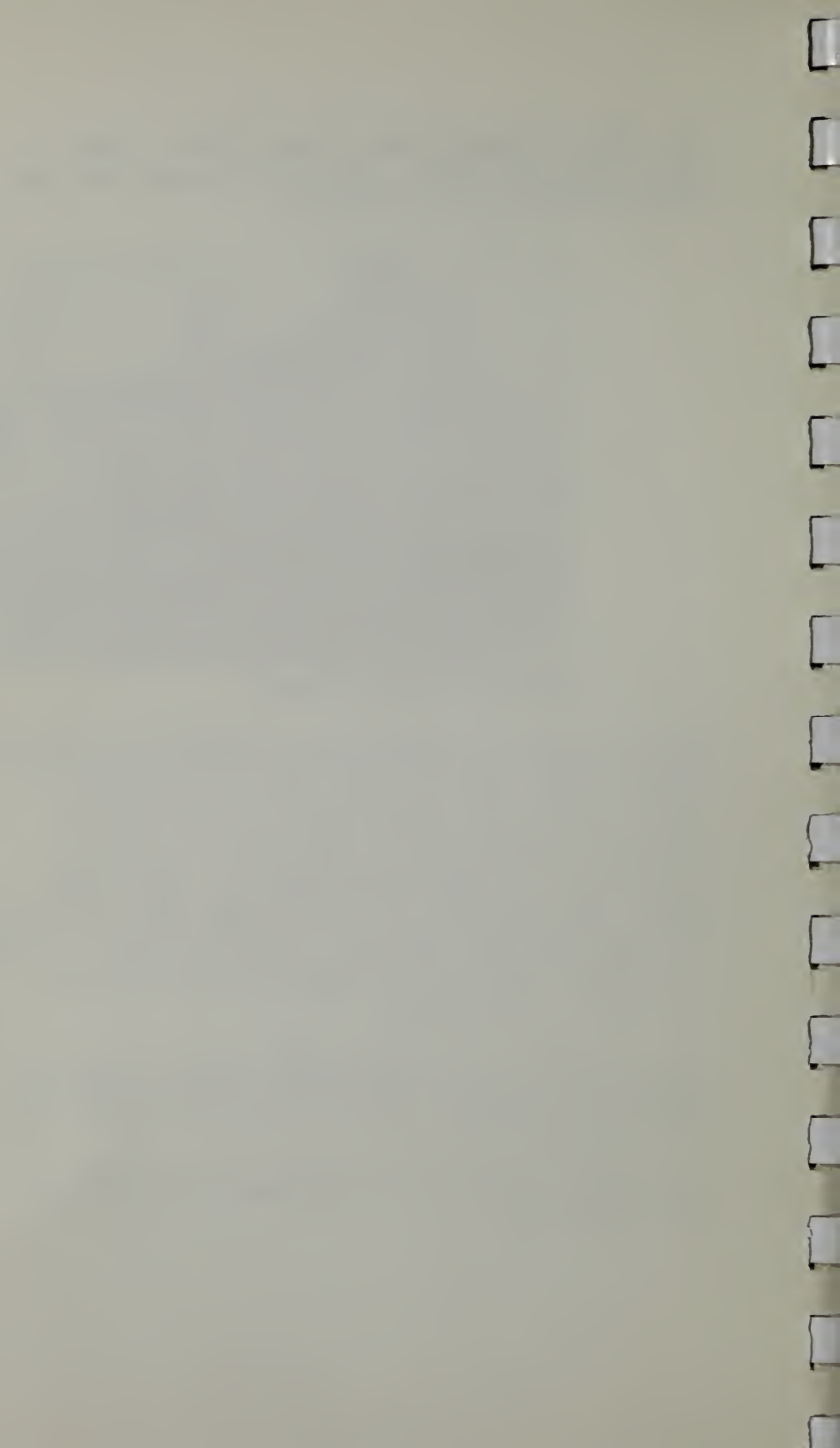


2313 Washington Street

William Hurd was married to a daughter of Zibeon Hooker, famed as a drummer boy at the Battle of Bunker Hill. His drum was made useless by a musket ball so he seized the gun of a fallen companion and fought to the end of the battle. He went on to fight at Ticonderoga and Valley Forge. He wore his hair in a queue down his back and made stirring speeches during the War of 1812. Mr. Hooker died in this house and is buried in St. Mary's churchyard.

Later Stephen Cate ran a hotel here. Travelling players presenting "Uncle Tom's Cabin" made this their headquarters.

This house is due to be destroyed by Redevelopment Authority.



2330 Washington Street - Between 1830 and 1840
William Curtis-Owner in
1848, 1855 and 1874

While this house is a two-story gable-roofed rectangular block, it shows Greek Revival features in



2330 Washington Street

the pilasters and in the Doric columns of the porches. Around the door are side and transom lights. Over the second-story windows are interesting recessed panels. Prominent moldings crown the first-floor windows and a wide, comfortable porch spreads the width of the house across the back overlooking terraced gardens to the river's edge.

This was the second home of William Curtis who with his brother Allen carried on their father's paper business. He had married Sarah Murdock on Christmas Day in 1823 and settled in a house further up the street, now gone.

2349 Washington Street - Circa 1755

John Parker-Owner in 1755

Ezra Parker-Owner in 1761

Aster Stoddard-Owner in
1774

William Hoogs-Owner in
1781

Samuel Brown-Owner in 1813

Rev. A. L. Baury-Owner in
1855

Baury Heirs-Owners in 1874

Probably built in 1755 by John Parker for his son, Ezra. Among subsequent owners, Aster Stoddard was a "Gentleman boat-builder," his son-in-law William Hoogs, a ship carpenter, and Samuel Brown who acquired the property for a debt was a prosperous Boston merchant.



Front entrance hall of 2349 Washington St.



2349 Washington Street from Concord Street



Second floor hallway of 2349 Washington Street

2349 Washington Street - Continued

In 1917 it was purchased by the Lucy Jackson Chapter of the D.A.R. and is now the property of the Redevelopment Authority. It has been turned and moved a short distance back to accommodate the widening of Washington Street and will be used for offices. A new foundation and new entrance steps were added at this time.

This impressive three-story mansion has a high hipped roof and recessed front door with side lights and transom. There were three other doors; the one in the rear formerly led to a delightful garden. There are fine fireplaces throughout the house and an original beehive oven.



Parlor fireplace at 2349 Washington St.

2349 Washington Street - Continued

Energetic William Hoogs had varied business interests; he built a paper mill, started a leather tanning business and in 1800 built the lower dam at the falls. The father of fourteen children, he served as a Newton selectman for three years. One of his sons, another William, ran a tavern and variety store on the opposite corner of Concord Street "where could be bought mackerel, board nails and bonnets." Dust-covered ledgers of the business covering the years from 1805 to 1809 were discovered in the attic of the house. William Jr. also continued his father's paper manufacturing.

Samuel Brown was a descendant of John Eliot and a member of the illustrious Brown family of Rhode Island. He assisted William Hoogs in the paper business, and it was he who made extensive changes in the house and presented it to Dr. Baury to be used as a rectory for St. Mary's Church.

Dr. Baury, a courteous "gentleman of the old school," was rector of St. Mary's Church for twenty-nine years. While the house was serving as the rectory it was gay with the church, home and social life of the Baurys and their six children.

While the D.A.R. held title to the property it was essentially a museum and contained many valuable antiques and items of historic interest.

2352 Washington Street - 1790-1795

Thomas Durant-Owner in 1795

Wallis-Owner in 1832

and in 1848

Mrs. William Wallis-Owner
in 1874

Here is a small-scale version of the hipped-roof Federal style shown in the Baurý mansion across the street. It is a very fine example of the comfortable New England homes of around 1800. There is a handsome doorway with rectangular sidelights. The extensive rear ell was a later addition. Miss Eleanor Pearson, architectural historian, states, "The house should by all means be preserved."



2352 Washington Street

Thomas Durant, born in 1768, was descended from Edward Durant, an early settler of Newton Corner, and Ann Jackson, daughter of Newton's first settler. Thomas married a sister of Dr. Ebenezer Starr, a practicing physician in Lower Falls for many years. Two sons became paper makers. Thomas, a builder or carpenter (as it was called in those

days) had much to do with the direction of the building of St. Mary's Church in 1813. About that time he fell and broke his back remaining a cripple until his death in 1829.

Thomas' daughter Louise, married to William Wallis, lived here for many years.

In this century Mr. Thomas F. Donahue grew outstanding iris and peonies in the terraced gardens stretching down to the river.



Rear ell of 2352 Washington Street

Note - Since the preparation of this material, this house has been razed by Redevelopment.

THE FOLLOWING ARE JUST A FEW OF THE NOTABLE OLD 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURY DWELLINGS THAT HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE LOWER FALLS SCENE MOSTLY WITHIN THE PAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

While this book was being prepared two more were taken--the Hagar and the Durant houses (2310 and 2352 Washington Street respectively.) More about these two houses may be found in the regular text under the above addresses.

Many were casualties of Route 128 and its clover-leaf, others have become parking lots, a "Donut" stand (now gone, too) a gasoline station, apartment house, etc. The most recent have been taken through the Redevelopment Authority. Still others in this listing are doomed. Nothing can bring back those which are gone. How about the others? Villages of Newton, take note!

This house stood just east of the home of Thomas Rice Sr., which at least for the present is still standing.



Thomas Rice Jr. owned and operated two mills on the Needham side of the river.

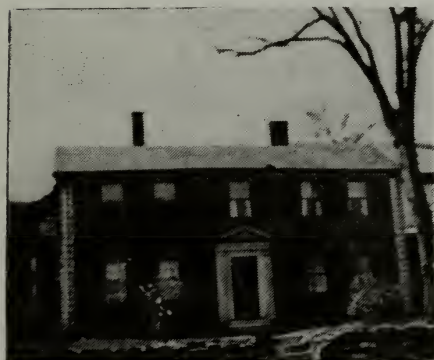
The Thomas Rice Jr. house on Hamilton Place

For thirty years he was a member of the Board of Selectmen and was a Representative in the State Legislature, twice State Senator and twice a member of the Governor's Council.

Just south of Route 128 on the north side of Washington Street stood the old Durrell house which was built before 1831. Mr. Durrell was long in the employ of Hurd and Crehore.



In 1874 the house Durrell House belonged to Mr. Washington Street E. C. Lyon and was probably 2181 Washington Street.



First William Curtis House

Next beyond the Durrell House on Washington Street, stood William Curtis's first home, a handsome eighteenth century house in which he lived until he built the fine Greek Revival house up the street a bit and across the road.

William was in partnership with his brother, Allen Crocker Curtis, in the Curtis Mills. Both Allen and William were sons of Solomon Curtis.



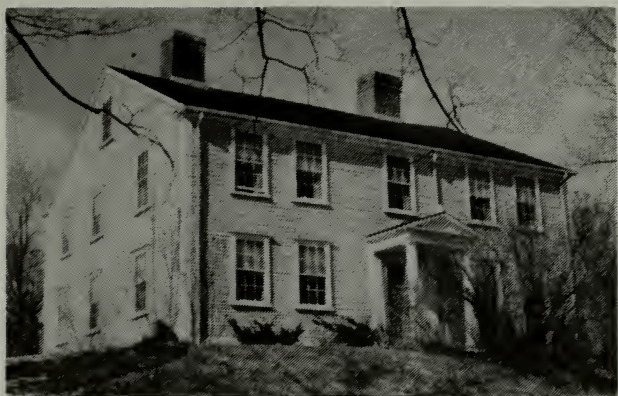
Amos Lyon House - 2303 Washington Street

Mr. Lyon apparently came to Newton in 1810 and started a paper mill at the Lower Falls in 1822. He was active in both the temperance and the abolition movements.

He was known as "a man of strict morals and strong religious convictions" as well as "high mental ability." He and his wife, Abigail, were the parents of "several pretty daughters." A six-year-old son became a victim of the Charles River in August of 1829 "near the Curtis Mills."

William Mills, who was the owner of the house in 1855, was a junior partner in the paper firm of Wales and Mills. He later conducted a grocery store.

Charles Rice, 2nd, who was the owner in 1874, also operated a paper mill at Lower Falls.



Dr. Ebenezer Starr House
2321 Washington Street

Circa 1740. Dr. Starr was a leading physician at the Lower Falls for forty years. He moved into this house in 1794.

Benjamin Neal was the owner in 1855 and in 1874. He was a paper manufacturer and one of the founders of St. Mary's Church. The house was destroyed to build an apartment building.



Solomon Curtis House
Washington Street

This eighteenth century house stood nearly across from Dr. Starr's fine home. Solomon Curtis was almost literally the "Patriarch of paper making." Of his fifteen children (by two wives) nine of his sons, five of his grandsons, and three of his great grandsons were all active in the paper making business.

Solomon arrived in Newton Lower Falls in 1792 and the same year, with four partners, established a mill across the river.

